

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-113 (Cancelled).

114. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium storing computer program logic, the computer program logic comprising:

first computer program code, stored and executable at a user station, for enabling a processor at the user station to select among a plurality of available online services to support an application function, wherein the first computer program code includes an application programming interface (API) that provides a generic client interface capable of communicating a functional request associated with the application function to any one of the plurality of available online services;

second computer program code, stored and executable at the user station, for enabling the processor to direct the establishment and use of a communication link between the user station and ~~each online service, when the~~ an online service ~~[[is]]~~ selected from the plurality of available online services; and

third computer program code stored and executable at the user station, and associated with said application function, for enabling the processor to present the user with different customized graphical user interfaces for different selected online services in support of said application function; wherein,

~~the different customized graphical user interfaces include at least one element that is effected by the use of program logic and that is custom to the respective online service; and~~

portions of the third computer program code are downloaded from the selected online service in advance of their execution.

115. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 114, further comprising a set of translators and protocol drivers for enabling the processor to establish the communication link between the user station and the selected online service.

116. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 114, further comprising protocol translation program code for enabling the processor to establish the communication link between the user station and the selected online service[[],].

117. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 114, ~~further comprising application programming interface program code that~~ wherein the API enables the processor to interconnect the online service selector function and the communications function.

118. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 114, further comprising data transport program code that enables the processor to

effectuate data transfers between the user station and the selected online service via the established communication link.

119. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 118, wherein the data transport code uses an object manifest to effectuate data transfers.

120. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 119, ~~further comprising application programming interface program code for enabling~~ wherein the API enables the processor to modify the object manifest.

121. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 120, wherein the API enables ~~application programming interface program code enables~~ the processor to interconnect the data transfer function and a higher-level software entity that can be invoked to modify the object manifest.

122. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 120, wherein the API ~~application programming interface program code~~ enables the processor to interconnect the data transfer function and a high-level user interface that enables the user at the user station to modify the object manifest.

123. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 118, further comprising a ~~plurality of~~ user interface function ~~functions~~ that enables

~~enable~~ the user station to submit a functional request ~~requests~~ to the selected online service.

124. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 114, wherein the first program code enables the processor to present a user with a list of the available online services.

125. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 114, wherein the user station is configured for communications with a multiplicity of independently-operated data sources via a non-proprietary network, and further comprises data transport program code that enables the processor to effectuate data transfers between the user station and a selected one of the independently-operated data sources via the non-proprietary network.

126. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 125, wherein the non-proprietary network comprises the Internet.

127. (Cancelled)

128. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 114, further comprising database function program code stored at the user station, for enabling the processor to present a user with a different database function for each different online service by a corresponding database function.

129. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 128, wherein portions of the database function program code are downloaded from the corresponding online service in advance of their execution.

130. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 114, further comprising general purpose user interface computer program code stored and executable at the user station for enabling the processor to facilitate the presentation of each of said customized graphical user interfaces.

131. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 114, wherein each of the customized graphical user interfaces operates as a customized element of a common user interface software package stored and executable at the user station.

132. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 114, wherein the first computer program code is updateable from a remote source to enable the processor to expand the number of available online services.

133. (Currently Amended) A user station, comprising a processor and a computer useable medium storing computer program logic, the computer program logic comprising:

first computer program code, stored and executable at the user station, for enabling a processor at the user station to select among a plurality of available online

services to support an application function, wherein the first computer program code includes an application programming interface (API) that provides a generic client interface capable of communicating a functional request associated with the application function to any one of the available online services;

second computer program code, stored and executable at the user station, for enabling the processor to direct the establishment and use of a communication link between the user station and ~~each online service, when the~~ an online service ~~[[is]]~~ selected from the plurality of available online services; and

third computer program code, stored and executable at the user station, and associated with said application function, for enabling the processor to present the user with different customized graphical user interfaces for different selected online services in support of said application function; wherein,

~~the different customized graphical user interfaces include at least one elements that is effected by the use of program logic that is custom to the respective online service; and~~

portions of the third computer program code are downloaded from the selected online service in advance of their execution.

134. (Previously Presented) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, further comprising a set of translators and protocol drivers for enabling the processor to establish the communication link between the user station and the selected online service.

135. (Previously Presented) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, further comprising protocol translation the communication link between the user station and the selected online service.

136. (Currently Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, ~~further comprising application programming interface program code that~~ wherein the API enables the processor to interconnect the online service selector function and the communications function.

137. (Previously Presented) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, further comprising data transport program code for enabling the processor to effectuate data transfers between the user station and the selected online service via the established communication link.

138. (Previously Presented) The user station as set forth in Claim 137, wherein the data transport program code uses an object manifest to effectuate data transfers.

139. (Currently Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 138, ~~further comprising application programming interface program code for enabling~~ wherein the API enables the processor to modify the object manifest.

140. (Currently Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 139, wherein the API ~~application programming interface program code~~ enables the processor to

interconnects the data transfer function and a higher-level software entity that can be invoked to modify the object manifest.

141. (Currently Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 139, wherein the API ~~application programming interface program code~~ enables the processor to interconnects the data transfer function and a high-level user interface that enables the user at the user station to modify the object manifest.

142. (Previously Presented) The user station as set forth in Claim 137, further comprising user interface program code for enabling the processor to submit functional requests to the selected online service.

143. (Previously Presented) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, wherein the first program code enables the processor to present the user with a list of the available online services.

144. (Previously Presented) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, wherein the user station is configured to communicate with a multiplicity of independently-operated data sources via a non-proprietary network, and the software further comprises data transport program code that enables the processor to effectuate data transfers between the user station and a selected one of the independently-operated data sources via the non-proprietary network.

145. (Previously Presented) The user station as set forth in Claim 144, wherein the non-proprietary network comprises the Internet.

146. (Cancelled)

147. (Previously Presented) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, further comprising database functions program code stored at the user station, for enabling the processor to present a user with a different customized database function for each different online service by a corresponding database function.

148. (Previously Presented) The user station as set forth in Claim 147, wherein portions of the database function program code are downloaded from the corresponding online service in advance of their execution.

149. (Previously Presented) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, further comprising general purpose user interface computer program code stored and executable at the user station for enabling the processor to facilitate the presentation of each of said customized graphical user interfaces.

150. (Previously Presented) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, wherein each of the customized graphical user interfaces operates as a customized element of a common user interface software package stored and executable at the user station.

151. (Previously Presented) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, wherein the first computer program code is updateable from a remote source to enable the processor to expand the number of available online services

152. (Previously Presented) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, wherein the user station is a personal computer.

153. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium storing computer program logic, the computer program logic comprising:

first computer program code, stored and executable at a user station, ~~for enabling a processor at the user station to select among a plurality of available online services to support an application function~~ that includes an application programming interface (API) operable to provide a generic client interface for communicating a functional request associated with an application function to any one of a plurality of available online services;

second computer program code, stored and executable at the user station, for enabling the processor to direct the establishment and use of a communication link between the user station and ~~each online service, when the~~ an online service ~~[[is]]~~ selected from the plurality of available online services; and

third computer program code stored and executable at the user station, and associated with said application function, for enabling the processor to present the user

with different customized graphical user interfaces for different selected online services in support of said application function; wherein,

~~the different customized graphical user interface functions include at least elements effected by the use of executable code that is custom to the respective online service; and~~

portions of the third computer program code are downloaded from the selected online service in advance of their execution.

154. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 153, further comprising a set of translators and protocol drivers for enabling the processor to establish the communication link between the user station and the selected online service.

155. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 153, further comprising protocol translation program code for enabling the processor to establish the communication link between the user station and the selected online service.

156. (Canceled)

157. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 153, further comprising data transport program code that enables the processor to

effectuate data transfers between the user station and the selected online service via the established communication link.

158. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 157, wherein the data transport function uses an object manifest to effectuate data transfers.

159. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 158, ~~further comprising application programming interface program code for enabling~~ wherein the API enables the processor to modify the object manifest.

160. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 159, wherein the API enables ~~application programming interface program code enables~~ the processor to interconnect the data transfer function and a higher-level software entity that can be invoked to modify the object manifest.

161. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 159, wherein the API ~~application programming interface program code~~ enables the processor to interconnect the data transfer function and a high-level user interface that enables the user at the user station to modify the object manifest.

162. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 157, further comprising a ~~plurality of~~ user interface function ~~functions~~ that enables

~~enable~~ the user station to submit a functional request ~~requests to the selected~~ any one of
the plurality of online services ~~service~~.

163. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 153, wherein the first program code enables the processor to present a user with a list of the available online services.

164. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 153, wherein the user station is configured to communicate with a multiplicity of independently-operated data sources via a non-proprietary network, and further comprises data transport program code that enables the processor to effectuate data transfers between the user station and a selected one of the independently-operated data sources via the non-proprietary network.

165. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 164, wherein the non-proprietary network comprises the Internet.

166. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 153, further comprising database function program code stored at the user station, for enabling the processor to present a user with a different customized database for each different online service by a corresponding database function.

167. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 166, wherein portions of the database function computer program code are downloaded from the corresponding online service in advance of their execution.

168. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 153, further comprising general purpose user interface computer program code stored and executable at the user station for enabling the processor to facilitate the presentation of each of said customized graphical user interfaces.

169. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 153, wherein each of the customized graphical user interfaces operates as a customized element of a common user interface software package stored and executable at the user station.

170. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 153, wherein the first computer program code is updateable from a remote source to enable the processor to expand the number of available online services.

171. (Currently Amended) A user station, comprising a processor and a computer useable medium storing computer program logic, the computer program logic comprising:

first computer program code, stored and executable at a user station, ~~for enabling a processor at the user station to select among a plurality of available online services to~~

~~support an application function that includes an application programming interface (API)~~
~~operable to provide a generic client interface for communicating a functional request~~
~~associated with an application function to any one of a plurality of available online~~
~~services;~~

second computer program code, stored and executable at the user station, for enabling the processor to direct the establishment and use of a communication link between the user station and ~~each online service, when the~~ an online service ~~[[is]]~~ selected from the plurality of available online services; and

third computer program code stored and executable at the user station, and associated with said application function, for enabling the processor to present the user with different customized graphical user interfaces for different selected online services in support of said application function; wherein,

~~the different customized graphical user interface functions include at least one~~
~~elements effected by the use of executable code that is custom to the respective online~~
~~service; and~~

portions of the third computer program code are downloaded from the selected online service in advance of their execution.

172. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 171, further comprising a set of translators and protocol drivers for enabling the processor to establish the communication link between the user station and the selected online service.

173. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 171, further comprising protocol translation program code for enabling the processor to establish the communication link between the user station and the selected online service.

174. (Canceled)

175. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 171, further comprising data transport program code that enables the processor to effectuate data transfers between the user station and the selected online service via the established communication link.

176. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 175, wherein the data transport function uses an object manifest to effectuate data transfers.

177. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 176, ~~further comprising application programming interface program code for enabling~~ wherein the API enables the processor to modify the object manifest can be modified.

178. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 177, wherein the API ~~application programming interface program code~~ enables the

processor to interconnect the data transfer function and a higher-level software entity that can be invoked to modify the object manifest.

179. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 177, wherein the API ~~application programming interface program code~~ enables the processor to interconnect the data transfer function and a high-level user interface that enables the user at the user station to modify the object manifest.

180. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 175, further comprising a ~~plurality of~~ user interface function ~~functions~~ that enables ~~enable~~ the user station to submit a functional request ~~requests to the selected~~ any one of ~~the plurality of~~ online services ~~service~~.

181. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 171, wherein the ~~[[the]]~~ first computer program code enables the processor to present a user with a list of the available online services.

182. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 171, wherein the user station is configured for communications with a multiplicity of independently-operated data sources via a non-proprietary network, and further comprises data transport computer program code that enables the processor to effectuate data transfers between the user station and a selected one of the independently-operated data sources via the non-proprietary network.

183. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 182, wherein the non-proprietary network comprises the Internet.

184. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 171, further comprising database functions computer program code stored at the user station, for enabling the processor to present a user with a different customized database for each different online service by a corresponding database function.

185. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 184, wherein portions of the database function computer program code are downloaded from the corresponding online service in advance of their execution.

186. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 171, further comprising general purpose user interface computer program code stored and executable at the user station for enabling the processor to facilitate the presentation of each of said customized graphical user interfaces.

187. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 171, wherein each of the customized graphical user interfaces operates as a customized element of a common user interface software package stored and executable at the user station.

188. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 171, wherein the first computer program code is updatable from a remote source to enable the processor to expand the number of available online services.

189. (New) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 114, wherein the different customized graphical user interfaces include at least one element that is effected by the use of program logic that is custom to the respective online service.

190. (New) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, wherein the different customized graphical user interfaces include at least one elements that is effected by the use of program logic that is custom to the respective online service.

191. (New) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 153, wherein the different customized graphical user interface functions include at least elements effected by the use of executable code that is custom to the respective online service.

192. (New) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 171, wherein the different customized graphical user interface functions include at least one elements effected by the use of executable code that is custom to the respective online service.